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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,440	10/16/2006	Jean-Luc Carrez	MART0930US	5113
24235	7590	09/29/2008		
LEVINE & MANDELBAUM				
444 MADISON AVENUE				
NEW YORK, NY 10022				
EXAMINER				
FLICK, JASON EDWARD				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
4158				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
09/29/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/598,440

Applicant(s)

CARREZ ET AL.

Examiner

JASON FLICK

Art Unit

4158

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. The term "short" in claim 11 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "short" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-4 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purdy et al. (patent number 5,215,528), in view of Rossi et al. (PGPub 2004/0243060).

8. [Claim 1] Purdy discloses a catheter (figure 1a, item 10) with a proximal base (figure 5a, item 48), including a needle with a puncture end (figure 5a, item 15) and a cage (figure 5a), which extends the base in the proximal direction. In addition, Purdy teaches this cage forming a chamber through which the needle slides from a proximal entrance (figure 5a, item 70) to an opposite distal exit (figure 5a, item 38a). Furthermore, Purdy discloses a sprung flexible steel blade (steel leaf spring)(figure 5a, item 58)(column 3, lines 40-43), capable of holding the puncture end of the needle in the chamber when the needle is withdrawn from the cannula, which is positioned across the chamber close to the proximal entrance of the chamber, perpendicular to the needle, and traversed by the needle. Purdy also teaches that both the needle and the blade contain structures (figure 5a, items 59 and 14c) which allow the blade at rest and

freely traversed by the needle when the needle is drawn in the proximal direction.

Purdy is silent on a blade which bends and inclines the needle in order to force the needle back in the distal direction until the puncture end comes into contact against the wall. However, Rossi discloses a catheter with a blade structure which bends and applies force to a needle, thereby forcing the puncture end of the needle against the wall of the chamber (figures 1f and 2e). Purdy and Rossi are combinable because they are concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely catheters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the structure taught by Purdy with the blade structure taught by Rossi in order to provide an alternative means of preventing the reuse of the needle.

9. [Claim 2] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 2 depends. In addition, Purdy discloses a perforation (figure 5a, item 59) in the flexible blade, as well as a locally modified section of the needle (figure 5a, item 14c), which prevents the needle from being withdrawn through the perforation when moved in the proximal direction. This modified section is located on the needle at a distance such that contact of the modified section with the perforation during withdrawal occurs after the puncture end of the needle is within the chamber (figure 5a).

10. [Claim 3] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 3 depends. Purdy is silent on a chamber comprising an end wall in the distal direction containing a groove intended to contain the puncture end of a needle. However, Rossi also discloses a chamber which has an end wall in the distal direction containing a groove into which the puncture end of the inclined needle enters (figure 14d, item 10').

Purdy and Rossi are combinable because they are both concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely catheters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the structure taught by Purdy with the groove portion of the chamber taught by Rossi in order to provide an alternative means of preventing the reuse of the needle.

11. [Claim 4] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 4 depends. Purdy also teaches a flexible blade which constitutes a branch of a blade shaped as an L, which has a longitudinal branch (figure 5a, item 58) fixed to a longitudinal wall of the chamber and a transverse branch (figure 5a, item 60) which constitutes the flexible blade equipped with a perforation (figure 5a, item 59) for the passage of the needle.

12. [Claim 7] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 7 depends. Purdy is silent on a cage which includes a nose, configured to connect with a catheter base, which is traversed longitudinally by an aperture for the passage of a needle. However, Rossi discloses the cage of the catheter including a nose (figure 14b, item 10) which slots into the catheter base (figure 14b, item 7) and which is traversed longitudinally by an aperture for the passage of the needle (figure 14b, item 1). Purdy and Rossi are combinable because they are both concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely catheters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the structure taught by Purdy with the nose structure taught by Rossi in order to provide a means of making the injection structure detachable from the catheter base.

13. [Claim 8] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 8 depends. Purdy also discloses the catheter needle equipped with a base (figure 5a, item 64), as well as the catheter cage including a transverse plate (figure 5a, item 60) projecting laterally, against which presses one wall of the base of the needle when the needle is in its working position (figure 5a).

14. [Claim 9] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 9 depends. Purdy also teaches a catheter structure in which the blade (figure 5a, item 60) is suspended from the plate (figure 5a, item 64) of the cage.

15. [Claim 10] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 10 depends. In addition, Purdy discloses a catheter structure in which the needle (figure 5a, item 15) includes a base (figure 5a, item 64) bearing against the flexible blade (figure 5a, item 60) when the needle is in its working position.

16. [Claim 11] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 11 depends. Purdy also teaches a short catheter which is adapted for insertion into a vein (figure 1a).

17. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purdy et al. (patent number 5,215,528), in view of Rossi et al. (PGPub 2004/0243060), in further view of Woehr et al. (PGPub 2003/0195471).

18. [Claim 5] Purdy and Rossi teach the limitations of claim 1, upon which claim 5 depends. Additionally, Purdy discloses a flexible U-shaped blade, constituting a first rear transverse branch (figure 5a, item 60) located at the entrance of the chamber, which is equipped with a perforation (figure 5a, item 59) for the passage of the needle,

as well as a second front transverse branch (figure 5a, item 63) parallel to the first branch, wherein the perforation of the rear transverse branch is not large enough to allow passage of the modified section of the needle (figure 5a, item 14c). Purdy and Rossi are silent on a second transverse branch which is equipped with a perforation for the passage of the needle. However, Woehr discloses an internal flexible catheter structure which has two parallel transverse branches, each with a perforation capable of allowing the passage of the needle through the catheter (figure 8). Purdy and Rossi are combinable with Woehr because they are both concerned with the same field of endeavor, namely catheters. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the structure taught by Purdy and Rossi with a perforation in the second transverse flexible branch taught by Woehr in order to provide an alternative means of preventing reuse of the needle.

19. [Claim 6] Purdy, Rossi, and Woehr teach the limitations of claim 5, upon which claim 6 depends. Purdy and Woehr are silent on a catheter base with an external rim, comprising a mobile lever and stop dog. However, Rossi discloses a catheter base with an external rim (figure 14, item 8), wherein the catheter cage includes a mobile lever and stop dog (figure 14, item 9) locked to this rim in one position of the lever. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the structure taught by Purdy, Rossi, and Woehr with the mobile lever and stop dog structure taught by Rossi in order to make the use of the catheter more efficient.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON FLICK whose telephone number is (571)270-7024. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 7:00am to 5:30pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jackson can be reached on 571-272-4697. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. F./
Examiner, Art Unit 4158
09/18/2008

/Fenn C. Mathew/
Primary Examiner